Bear Sightings Increase in Grays Harbor

Local News

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Hoquiam, WA - For several weeks the residents who live on Tennis Court in the northern part of Hoquiam have reported seeing a black bear in their neighborhood. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife set up a trap in the area of Tennis Court but the bear has so far avoided the trap.

On Monday evening (11/09/09) at 4:50 pm Hoquiam police received calls regarding the sighting of a black bear in the area of Washington Court which is located west of Lincoln Street and above Grand Avenue. Another sighting of the bear was reported at 6:42 pm on Orchard Drive which is located several blocks south of Washington Court.

At 1:30 am on Tuesday morning Sgt. Shane Krohn photographed a black bear sitting in an apple tree in the yard of a residence in the 600 block of Orchard Drive. Krohn watched the bear for about 15 minutes as it devoured the treats attached to the limbs of the tree. The fact that Krohn was there did not seem to bother the bear at all.

If this is the same bear that was seen in the area of Tennis Court it seems to travel up the hill from Tennis Court toward the cemetery and then it travels south through Elton Bennett Park, across Grand Avenue and up to the area of Washington Court and Orchard Drive.

GHoquiam Deputy Chief Jim Maloney said "This information is released so that the public will be aware that the black bear has been seen in the area for several weeks now." The Department of Fish and Wildlife advises that If you encounter a bear, stand still, wave your arms, clap your hands, yell, or even throw a stick at it if have to. An informational web site for citizens to go to is http://wdfw.wa.gov/wlm/living/mammals/htm

Several sightings recently in Central Park and Westport were also reported to the Department of Fish and Wildlife.